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The Plotter's Warning-piece: 15

OR, A

# BRIEF ACCOUNT

Of the Discovery of the

## Plots & Conspiracys

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Subvert the Established Government  
of the Kingdom, and to introduce

Popery and Arbitrary Power.

WITH

The manner how they have been detected and defeated, and the Contrivers brought to punishment. But more largely upon the Late Discovery, for which the Lord *Preston* and Mr. *Ashton* were convicted of *High-Treason*, and for which Mr. *Ashton* was executed at *T Y B U R N*.

WITH

Other things worthy of note, to discourage our restless Enemies, and shew them their folly and madness in such *Enterprizes* and *Attempts*.

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*Licens'd according to Order.*

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L O N D O N,

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## The Plotters V Varning-piece,&c.

**A**S there have been restless, and uneasy Persons in all Ages of the World, who have Laboured unaccountably to disturb the Peace and Tranquility of the States, Kingdoms, and Provinces, where they have lived, so I think in this Age, it appears in great measure, where too many Turbulent, and Repining Spirits, are not contented to be at rest themselves, but Labour to destroy and subvert the quiet, and ease of their fellow Subjects, by Plotting, Conspiring, and Contriving Mischief against the established Government we live under, not knowing themselves what they would have, or be at, Men seeking (with the Envious man in the fable, their own Ruin, that they may mischief others, these as St. Jude says, *are Raving Waves of the Sea, Foaming out their own shame*, and commonly the hard hand of Justice makes such publick Examples, leaving them in the end, nothing but Repentance, and the folly of pulling their own ruin on their Heads, and undoing, and disgracing their posterity, and of this kind *England, Scotland and Ireland*, have been pestered, yet many of them, have met a deserved Fate, the *Viscount Dundee*, that great Ring-Leader of the Rebels in *Scotland*, who occasioned much Blood shed, and disolation fell at the Battel of *St. Johnstons*, and was Left in *Blare-Church*, naked and despiseable, to be buried by the Villagers, when he might have lived Peaceably and Quietly to a longer date, and many of his Accomplices taken, imprison'd, or put to flight, or banishment, so that he, not only ruined and lost himself, but others: we find in *Ireland* Lieutenant General *Hamilton*, who was sent unto that Kingdom by King *William*, betraying his Trust, and taking part with the Enemy against his Lawful King, was taken and forced to beg his life at the Battle of the *Boyne*, which for so much perfidiousness, he could expect from

the hands of a Merciful King, yet he still remains a Prisoner as do many more, as well Earls, Lords, as of meaner Rank, the visible hand of Heaven being against them.

In *England* a Person that had been the Popes *Nuncio's* Chairman, attempting privately to lift, and raise Forces for the late King, to send them into *France* by the way of *Flanders*, was detected even by a Popish Priest, to whom he communicated the Intreague, and being Tryed at the *Old Bayly*, was found guilty of High-Treason on a special Verdict, and Executed at *Ty-bourn* twice (as we may term it) for the Rope broak with him the first time, as being a double Punishment for each Kingdom he supposed to betray.

We see what a sad Misfortune Capt. *Croon*, has pulled upon his ~~self~~ by seeking to disturb the Peace of this Kingdom, in adhering to its Enemies, having remained a long Time under Sentence of Death, and sometimes near to it, and no doubt the Grave had swallowed him up, ere this time, had he not met with a Merciful Prince.

Methinks the Fatal and untimely end of *Godfry Cress*, for going aboard the *French Fleet*, and Corresponding with them, to the betraying a Country where he lived so well, in such ease and plenty, might be fresh in the Memory of our Plotters, for too Late he Repented his follis, and at his Execution near *St. Thomas Waterings*, in the *Kentish Road*, a little beyond *Kent-street*, he warned all to take warning by his sad and deplorable end; but we see these suffice not, for we have Instance of a fresher date of men, that the world looks upon, as Wise, and Judicious, and whose Characters one would think should have rendered them more solicitous for their honours and safety, and of these we shall instance some lately Tryed, and Convicted at the *Sessions-House* in the *Old Bayly*, as the Circumstances occurred at their Tryals, for the better satisfaction of the Reader.

On *Fryday* the 16th day of *January* 1690. Lord *Preston*, or *Viscount Preston* in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, *John Allington*, and *Edmund Elliot*, were Arraigned for High-Treason, and the next day upon earnest request, being appointed for the Tryal  
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of the Lord *Presfon* upon the indictment of High-Treason, he was indicted by the Name and Title of Sir *Richard Graham* Knight, and Mr. *Ashtons* Tryal was put off till *Monday*: the indictments against them consisted of two parts, The first setting forth, that they (meaning the Prisoners) had a Treasonable design, carrying on to depose the King and Queen, and to subvert and alter the Government of the Kingdom of *England*, and to raise War, and Rebellion in the same, &c. which wicked and traiterous design to bring to pass, they did on the 29th of *December* last, meet and conspire together, with several other Traytors not yet discovered; and further, that they did compose several Treasonable Letters, Memorandums and Notes in writing, by which they set forth the most effectual way and means, how they might dethrone and depose our most Gracious Sovereign Lord and Lady, the King and Queen, describing farther therein, how the affairs of this Kingdom stood, as to its strength, Force, Shipping, Fortification, Sea-Port-Towns within this Kingdom, &c.

The Second part of this Indictment was their adhering to their Majesties Enemies, and to that end, that they might acquaint *Lenis* the *French* King of the same, they did hire a Boat or small Vessel, and thereupon did Embarque themselves together, with a Packquet of Treasonable Letters, in order to transport themselves into *France*, agreeing to pay for their passage, the sum of one Hundred pound Sterling, or value, and in order to their Treasonable Voyage, they had made their passage as far as below *Graves-end*; but then were Intercepted by Capt. *Billop*, Who was Cruising abroad to search for them; and came on board their Vessel.

This being the material Substance of their charge as they stood Indicted, the Evidence for the King was called and sworn, then it appeared against the Prisoners at the Bar, that cunningly and subtilly to manage this horrid Conspiracy, they had hired a Smack, or small Vessel called the *Thomas* and *Elizabeth* for their secret Conveyance into *France*, and thereupon in order to that passage, they took Water in a Skuller at *Surry-stairs*, and so went on board the Smack which lay at Ancor in the

River against the *Tower*, and immediately set sail down the River, till they espied the *George Frigate*, a Ship of War lying in *Long-Reach*, then they desired (for their better security) the Master of the Smack, to hide them under the Quarter Hatches, which accordingly he consented to, and did, and so to prevent their being seen by any that might happen to come on board; and there they continued a considerable time, till they had notice given them the danger was over, but they had not long sail'd ere coming in sight of *Graves-end*, and fearing to be stoped at the *Block-House*, in the way, and the search of the Smack, they again hid themselves, but had not passed that Town far, ere Capt. *Billop* came on board them, giving out he came to press the two men, the Master had aboard him as his Assistance, but as it appeared by the sequel, he came in search of suspicious Persons, when after some narrow Scrutiny he found the Prisoners Lying along under the Hatches, and being haled up, he searched them, and found a Pacquet of Treasonable Papers in Mr. *Ashtons* Bosom, and thereupon with a good guard he carryed the Persons there found, who were the Prisoners, together with the Papers, before the Right Honourable the Earl of *Nottingham*, Secretary of State, in order to their Examination, who Examined the Papers, and afterwards they being Examined by the Cabinet Council, the prisoners were committed in safe Custody to the *Tower*, the Lord *Preston* whose Tryal took up almost the whole day, he having all the fair hearing imaginable, urging many things, and asking divers questions, but the proof being plain and positive, and the Letters which took up a great deal of time in Reading, being adjudged by the Court, to import no less than High-Treason, so that nothing Materially being offered in his defence, he was found guilty of High-Treason.

On Monday Mr. *John Ashton* was tryed, and the proof against him being to the same purpose, and though he offered divers Excuses in his own defence, being positive, and he producing nothing material against it, was, as the former, found guilty of High-Treason; and in the close of the Sessions, they received Sentence, to be *Drawn, Hang'd and Quartered*, as in  
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case of *High-Treason* the Sentence in that Case being very terrible, viz. *You shall go to the place from whence you came, from thence to be drawn on a Hurdle to the place of Execution, and there to be hang'd up by the Neck, but not till dead, but being cut down alive, your Privy Members shall be cut off, and your Bowels taken out and burnt before your Face; then your Head to be severed from your Body, and your Body to be divided into four quarters.* A Sentence that would startle one: Yet this is the Reward of Treason, and with which often the Traytors meet; as many sad examples have manifested even in a few years past.

These persons thus receiving Sentence, were commanded to prepare for and expect the fatal day: Put *Edmund Elliot* was not tryed, but continued till further order. And we hear some supplications have been made to Her Majesty, since the King's departure for *Holland*, especially for the Lord *Preston's* Life, but what effect they have had on the Royal Goodness we are yet to learn, and could heartily wish any Gentleman a better fate, than by his Rashness he should so entangle his Life, as to stand in need to beg it.

As for Mr. *Ashton*, he continued in *Newgate* till Wednesday the 28th. of *January*, and then the Sheriffs Officers conveyed him to *Tyburn*, he having the favour of a Coach, where after he had expressed many signs of sorrow for what he had done, and prayed, &c. the Executioner did his Office; and so he ended his days by an untimely Death.

We might instance others that are in trouble upon the like occasions, and leave the further progress of the matter to Time, and proceed to let restless men know, That the Arm of Heaven has been wonderfully visible in protecting this Kingdom ever since the Reformation: For in the Reign of the glorious Queen *Elizabeth*, neither the Pope's Bulls, his Curses, nor his bloody Emissaries and Assassines, could not prevail to hurt her, but they were successful in  
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their wicked Projects, and many of them were executed, others banished, and some led to plot Treason after her death, but that miscarried too; for when they thought by their hellish Powder-plot, in the Reign of King James the First, to have blown up and destroyed the King, and the three Estates of the Kingdom, it was miraculously discovered by the mistake of a letter, and utterly frustrated, turning the Edge of Justice upon themselves. So that many were executed as Traytors. And in the next Reign the Disturbances of their Country, came mostly to untimely ends, or to be miserable and delpicable. And pray what got the Papists, and such as they drew in, in King Charles the Second's time, but Halsters, Axes, and other Punishments? And when in the Reign of the late King, they began proudly to rear their Heads, promising to themselves the suppression of the Protestant Religion, and the bringing in of Popery, all on a sudden their towering expectations were dashed to pieces.

So that all fotters and restless persons, if they will see and not be ignorantly blind, may perceive the Genius of the Nation, or rather the Hand of Heaven, fighting against them, as it fought against Pharaoh, in the Red-Sea, to his overthrow.

**F I N I S.**